



June 26, 2003

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF CALIFORNIA

Dear Fellow Californians:

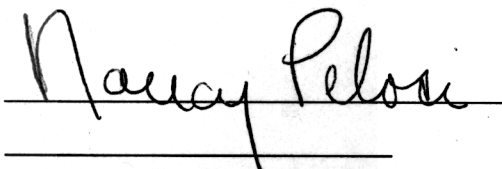
Nearly 8 million of our fellow Californians went to the polls last November. The current effort to overturn that decision through a recall initiative is disrespectful to our established democratic tradition and is causing instability in our state's fragile economy.

California is facing many serious challenges. Our state has a \$38 billion budget deficit, and the unemployment rate currently stands at 6.6 percent. Our cities and counties are under great pressure to make ends meet, and to provide the most basic of services to our citizens. If this effort succeeds, the cost of the election will only aggravate the current budget situation.

At a time when California is struggling, it is incumbent upon all her elected officials to refrain from actions that create uncertainty. We should be working together to find answers for our state, instead of wasting resources to overrule its voters. As the nonpartisan California Business Roundtable put it: "California needs its principal public officials to be focused on restoring vitality to the economy and stability to the state's budget and financial position...We all should devote our energies to efforts that will positively benefit our citizens, rather than the activities that will have no positive results, and bypass the accepted process for selecting our State leadership."¹

We call on those pursuing the recall to put an end to this misguided effort. They are setting a dangerous precedent for our state and its future governors. A recall will waste money, resources, and most importantly, it will ignore the decision made by voters last fall. Now is not a time for partisan politics and personal gain, it is a time for serious leadership. We stand united and ready to work in a positive way to get California back on its feet.

Sincerely,





¹ California Business Roundtable press release, June 4, 2003: "Business Roundtable Opposes Recall Election"

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